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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

May 04, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2169 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: EAID, PREL, PGOV, PHUM
Captions: None
Subject: UAE RED CRESCENT BEGINS AIRLIFTS TO BAGHDAD
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 02169

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: AMB DCM RSO P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: ECON:CCRUMPLER
CLEARED: ECON:TWILLIAMS

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9785
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMICEA/USCINCCENT INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI PRIORITY 3093
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 0854
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 0035

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 002169

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/RA, NEA/NGA, PRM/ANE, AND
IO/UNP
KUWAIT FOR HOC AND ORHA

E.O. 12958: DECL 05/04/08
TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE RED CRESCENT BEGINS AIRLIFTS TO BAGHDAD

REF: ABU DHABI 1978 AND PREVIOUS

11. (U) Classified by DCM Richard A. Albright, for reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

12. (C) Heralding a new phase of UAE Red Crescent operations in Iraq, the UAE Air Force today facilitated the first of four airlifts to Baghdad International Airport on behalf of the Red Crescent

Authority (RCA). RCA Secretary General San'a Al-Kitbi told Econoff 5/3 that the plane carried 15 tons of medical equipment and medicines for seven different hospitals in the Baghdad area. The four airlifts combined will deliver more than USD \$300,000 in medical supplies to Iraq. Since November 2002, the RCA has spent a total of USD \$3,347,761 on its humanitarian operations in Iraq.

13. (C) According to Al-Kitbi, the medical airlifts are only the first step in what is a plan to provide seven hospitals located in different areas of Baghdad with all the medical supplies and equipment they need to offer both outpatient and long-term/surgical services. UAE medical experts are already in Baghdad assisting with the complete renovation of the Olympic Hospital near the Iraq Ministry of Health building and have identified the seven hospitals to receive the RCA assistance.

In Other News...

14. (U) According to press reports, the RCA delegation that arrived to Umm Qasr 4/11 handed over six fully equipped ambulances on 5/2 to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. ICRC will assist the Iraqi Red Crescent in the distribution of the ambulances to hospitals located in remote areas of southern Iraq.

15. (U) Post also learned that RCA coordinated 5/1 a convoy carrying 140 tons of food and medical aid to Iraq from Jordan on behalf of Human Appeal International -- the third largest NGO in the UAE. UAE Ambassador to Jordan Rahma Al-Za'abi dispatched the convoy from Amman earlier this week. Ten representatives from the UAE branch of Human Appeal International accompanied the supplies to Iraq, and will distribute them to Al-Karekh Hospital and other medical centers in central Iraq.

Wahba